

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 5 and 11 are amended.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Haugland in the February 20, 2006 personal interview and subsequent telephone conferences. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the personal interview and telephone conferences are incorporated into the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 5-6 and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Taubenberger (U.S. Patent No. 5,685,471) in view of Focke et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,603,800) (Focke); and rejects claims 1-4, 7-8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Taubenberger in view of Focke or, alternatively, over Taubenberger in view of Focke and Ohba et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,592,276 B2) (Ohba). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Independent claims 1 and 11 recite a printing apparatus, and independent claim 5 a continuous paper transporting mechanism, that provide for the transport of paper accurately and stably, thereby making it possible to improve printing accuracy. Each of these independent claims recite the feature of a "frictionally transporting section including a back feeding unit configured to feed back the continuous paper in a second opposite direction by a predetermined amount after completion of printing."

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 5 and 11 to additionally recite the feature of "a control unit for controlling the operation of the buffer unit in correspondence with the operation of the back feeding unit after completion of printing." Support for these amendments is provided at least in the timing charts shown in Figs. 3 and 4 and in the specification at page 15, lines 3-6. In the personal interview and subsequent telephone conferences, the Examiner agreed that the cited references do not teach or suggest a printing apparatus having the features of independent claims 1, 5 and 11, respectively, and "a control

unit for controlling the operation of the buffer unit in correspondence with the operation of the back feeding unit after completion of printing." In view of the amendments to independent claims 1, 5 and 11, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 1, 5 and 11 under §103(a) should be withdrawn.

Applicants have rewritten dependent claim 2 in independent form. Amended independent claim 2 recites the features of the buffer unit comprising "a pushing-out member configured to push out a surface of the continuous paper by coming into contact with the surface," and "a pushing-out-amount controlling unit configured to control an amount of push out by the pushing-out member in correspondence with an amount of the feeding back by the frictionally transporting section." In the personal interview and subsequent telephone conferences, the Examiner agreed that the cited references do not teach or suggest a printing apparatus having the features of independent claim 1 and "a pushing-out member configured to push out a surface of the continuous paper by coming into contact with the surface," and "a pushing-out-amount controlling unit configured to control an amount of push out by the pushing-out member in correspondence with an amount of the feeding back by the frictionally transporting section." In view of the amendments to independent claim 2, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 2 under §103(a) should be withdrawn.

Applicants further submit that the rejections of claims 3-4 and 6-10 under §103(a) should be withdrawn because of the dependency of these claims to allowable independent claims 1, 2 or 5, as well as additional features these dependent claims recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-11 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:RMJ/tls

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: March 6, 2007

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